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Five Staple Products of Far East Make Western Nations Dependent Upon Supplies from Orient

The dependence of the West upon the East is indicated by a study of the trade figures for 1923 which show that the total trade of the United States with China during that year reached \$337,000,000, including the trade of \$37,000,000 with Hongkong. With Japan the United States did a trade of \$611,167,665 and with the Philippine Islands, \$127,000,000. The latter doubled during 1924 when it reached the figure of \$250,000,000.

Manila is the natural distributing depot for United States' commerce with the Orient.

It is estimated that the trade of Great Britain throughout the Far East is over 3½ billion dollars annually.

A great part of this trade consists of staples from the East upon which the West relies. The hemp of the Philippines and the jute of India supply the farmers of the world with containers for delivering their products to the consumer. The tin of the Straits Settlements and Java is used in canning surplus fruits and the rubber from those countries gives the world tires. From the coconut tree, are obtained important products and one third of the world's supply is produced in the Philippines.

The Manila "Times," in commenting upon this, says:

"There are, therefore, five material and practical reasons for the western countries taking an active interest in Pacific affairs. These main products are, at present, not controlled by any one nation. If they were, that nation would be in a position to embarrass the whole world should it have the will and power to do so. On the other hand,

the Orient is now so dependent upon the enterprise, initiative, and genius of western nations that in the interests of both, the leaders of both will not jeopardize the peace and lives of millions of people so far remote from the sources of trade, food and other supplies, that they do not realize how dependent a man from Kansas really is upon the products of the tropics."

Filipinos Urged To Oust Japs and Man Own Fishing Fleet

The fishing industry of the Philippines is almost entirely in the hands of Japanese, and an attempt is being made by the Philippine government to encourage Filipinos to enter this profitable and growing industry. The large fleet of fishing boats in Manila Bay and vicinity is almost entirely made up of vessels manned by Japanese. "La Vanguardia," a Filipino daily of Manila, recently urged Filipinos to engage in fishing. It said:

"At present the Japanese participation in the fishing industry is notable. Why can the Filipinos not develop the same love of the sea, of adventure, to dig up riches hidden off our shores, even if only for the benefit of their respective families?

"If we do not possess men willing to avail themselves of this opportunity, foreigners who are able and industrious because of their inherited characteristics for that occupation will be the ones to reap the rewards."

Filipinos Relinquish Lumber Industry To Foreign Firms

An analysis of the lumber industry in the Philippines made recently by prominent lumbermen of Manila discloses that Filipino lumber companies are greatly outnumbered by companies owned or operated by foreigners. Only three native lumber companies of note, it is said, are engaged in the industry while there are three Chinese, four Spanish, two English, and four American firms.

One of the reasons for this, it was stated, is the distaste on the part of the Filipino for manual labor and a fondness for the professions of law and medicine. This is partly fostered by the educational system which carries a student at the primary school step by step to the University. Lack of Filipino capital and an ignorance of business due to inexperience were other reasons advanced.

San Francisco - Manila in 40 Flying Hours

In an opinion given before the House committee investigating aircraft by Lieut. Leigh Wade, one of the round the world flyers, fleet planes can fly from the North Pacific American mainland to Asia in forty flying hours. By placing a mother ship at each landing place—San Francisco and Manila, for example—and adjusting the routes to the different seasons Lieut. Wade claimed that flights could be made throughout the year and he said that no obstacles existed to large fleets making the flight.

Philippine Schools Are Progressing Under American System

Expressing pleasure at finding that the school system of the Philippine Islands approaches the American system and not that of any European country, Dr. Stephen Duggan, member of the Educational Survey Committee, now studying education in the Islands, pointed out in a speech before the University of the Philippines that the American system provided a ladder from kindergarten to university up which any boy or girl may rise according to native capacity.

"I always believe there is only one attitude which must be preserved," he said, "and the American people have that attitude. The attitude insists upon handing down from generation to generation their principles—their national ideals."

The survey will include every school in the archipelago, from the lowest to the highest institution of learning. The committee is headed by Dr. Paul Monroe of Columbia University, New York, and includes some of the best known educational authorities of the United States.

In connection with the survey Vice-Governor Gilmore of the Philippines said:

"These educational experts are charged with the duty of making an impartial, dispassionate judgment of what has been accomplished in nearly twenty-five years. The board is to make a careful consideration of what improvements, if any, should be made in order to have a more effective educational system. It will consider to what extent education has contributed and can contribute to the betterment of the Islands and their inhabitants."

The commission includes Prof. George S. Counts, associate professor of education, Yale University; Dr. Jesse F. Williams, professor of physical education, Columbia University; Dr. Rugg, professor of education, Columbia University; Prof. George A. Works, and Prof. Stephen P. Duggan, director of the International Institute of Education, New York.

Airplane vs. Locusts

Should the airplane which is being tried in Mindoro in connection with the anti-locust campaign in the Philippines prove successful the use of planes to combat pests may be extended, according to an official of the Philippine department of agriculture.

Increasing Respect for Law Aids Enforcement

Speaking in Manila before the Philippine branch of the American Bar Association Governor General Wood declared that one of the greatest needs of the Islands is an efficient method of law enforcement.

"Law administration," he said, "is hampered here as a result of lack of funds and efficient men in legal positions but slowly the administration is furthering the effect of its systematic attempts to instill in the public a respect for law enforcement and justice and honesty and as a result the law administration of the Islands is becoming more efficient."

More Radio Service

A network of telegraphic and radio communication is gradually being extended over the Philippines where 757 localities are already supplied with stations. Additional stations will be installed, according to an official of the Philippine bureau of posts, as soon as more money is made available. There remain about 700 points where telegraph and radio stations are needed in order that the Islands be thoroughly covered.

Trade Increase

A general increase in both foreign and domestic trade of the Philippines for 1924 is indicated by a recent partial report issued by the Bureau of Customs of the Philippines.

The entire trade for 1924 amounted to \$243,350,555 as against \$208,466,487 for 1923, an increase of \$34,884,068. The balance of trade for 1924 stood in favor of the Islands by \$27,328,775, the imports amounting to \$108,010,890 and the exports \$135,339,665.

Extension Course

The University of the Philippines is considering plans to establish an extension course whereby teachers, clerks and other employes whose work prevents them from attending the institution may receive instruction. It is planned to supplement written exercises by weekly lectures over the radio.

Mestizo Steers

The growth of sugar plantations in the Philippines has created an increasing demand for steers and in order to meet this demand the bureau of agriculture is carrying on an extensive breeding of the rinderpest-resisting Indian bull with the native cow. The mestizo steers resulting are said to be better than carabaos on plantations.

English Language Is Urged As Medium For General Use

In an address before a convention of the Federation of Woman's Clubs of the Philippine Islands held recently in Manila, Vice-Governor Gilmore urged the adoption of the English language as the common mode of expression for the Filipinos and asked the Federation to exert efforts towards this end.

"The reasons which make the subject important to you women associated in this Federation are the same reasons which make it important to all the people of those islands," he said. "There prevails in these scattered sections thus represented a diversity of language which makes the use of some common medium necessary. It would be impracticable to conduct the deliberations and discussions of this meeting in the dialect of any one section represented. The medium I would like to see used is English, not because it is superior to some other language that might have been adopted, but because it is the one language which by reason of early adoption and by twenty-five years of use in the public schools, has gained a prevalency which makes it now a language available for general use."

"There are those who have likened the proposal to make English a common language to the efforts made in the past by European nations to displace an existing common tongue of a dependent nation with a view to perpetuate its control over it. English is the language of free people. If the people of the Philippine Islands are to develop national feeling and national institutions, there must be a common tongue. The effort on the part of the United States is prompted solely by a firm belief that some common medium is essential for an independent people, and that the widespread use of this language will in no way imperil local traditions and institutions."

Demand for Drydock

In view of the increasing importance of the Philippines as a shipping center in the East a movement is now on foot for the construction of a drydock which will provide adequate means of repair for both inter-island and international shipping. At present no facilities are available for anything but minor repairs, it is said, and shipping firms are called upon to send their boats to Hong-kong, Shanghai or other eastern ports.

